GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1468
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2005
ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of frequent occurrence of accidents in coal mines in different parts of the country and more particularly in the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL);

(b) if so, the steps taken for safety and security in the coal mines so as to prevent recurrence of the accidents;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to give special financial package to coal companies specially to SCCL to meet the expenditure for purchase of State of art safety devices for the workers as also to strengthen the safety infrastructure in the mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Govt is aware of occurrence ofaccidents in coal mines and is constantly striving to reduce such accidents.

(b) Provision for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed there under. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under Ministry of Labour & Employment, issues guidelines in the form of circulars for improving safety measures. The provisions are required to be complied with by the mine management. The officers of Directorate Genera! of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default. To improve the status of safety in mines, Government through DGMS have promoted a three-pronged initiative viz., developmental, promotional and advisory role in the safety management. Some of such initiatives are as follows:

Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars.

Promoting participation of workers in safety management.

Promoting self regulation by management.

Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.

Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.

Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.

National Conference on Safety in Mines.

National Safety Awards.

Interactions at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.

Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.

Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.

(c) to (e) No Sir. Each coal company including SCCL makes a separate safety Budget in which adequate funds are provided to meet the expenditure for the purchase of the state of the art safety devices for workers and also to strengthen the safety infrastructure in the mines.